

GENTS FROM ALTON B. PARKER'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF SEPT. 26, 1904.

To the Honorable Champ Clark and
others, Committee, etc.

GENTLEMEN:
In my response to your Committee, at the formal notification proceedings, I referred to some matters not mentioned in this letter. I desire that these be considered as incorporated herein, and regret that lack of space prevents specific reference to them all. I wish here, however, again to refer to my views there expressed as to the gold standard, to declare again my unqualified belief in said standard, and to express my appreciation of the action of the Convention in reply to my communication upon that subject.

Grave public questions are pressing for decision. The Democratic party appeals to the people with confidence that its position on these questions will be accepted and endorsed at the polls. While the issues involved are numerous, some stand forth pre-eminent in the public mind. Among these are: Tariff Reform, Imperialism, Economic Administration and Honesty in the Public Service. I shall briefly consider these and some others within the necessarily prescribed limits of this letter.

IMPERIALISM.

While I presented my views at the notification proceedings concerning this vital issue, the overshadowing importance of this question impels me to refer to it again. The issue is oftentimes referred to as Constitutionalism vs. Imperialism.

If we would retain our liberties and constitutional rights unimpaired, we cannot permit or tolerate at any time or for any purpose, the arrogation of unconstitutional powers by the executive branch of our government. We should be ever mindful of the words of Webster, "Liberty is only to be preserved by maintaining Constitutional restraints and just divisions of political powers."

Already the national government has become centralized beyond any point contemplated or imagined by the framers of the Constitution. How tremendously all this has added to the power of the President! It has developed from year to year until it almost equals that of many monarchs. While the growth of our country and the magnitude of interstate interests may seem to furnish a plausible reason for this centralization of power, yet these same facts afford the most potent reason why the executive should not be permitted to encroach upon the other departments of the government, and assume legislative, or other powers, not expressly conferred by the Constitution. The magnitude of the country and its diversity of interests and population would enable a determined, ambitious and able executive unmindful of constitutional limitations and fired with the lust of power, to go far in the usurpation of authority and the aggrandizement of personal power before the situation could be fully appreciated or the people be aroused.

The issue of Imperialism which has been thrust upon the country involves a decision whether the law of the land or the rule of individual caprice shall govern. The principle of Imperialism may give rise to brilliant, startling, dazzling results, but the principle of Democracy holds in check the brilliant Executive and subjects him to the sober, conservative control of the people. The people of the United States stand at the parting of the ways. Shall we follow the footsteps of our fathers along the paths of peace, prosperity and contentment, guided by the ever-living spirit of the Constitution which they framed for us, or shall we go along other and untrodden paths, hitherto shunned by all, following blindly new ideals, which, though appealing with brilliancy to the imagination and ambition, may prove a will o' the wisp, leading us into difficulties from which it may be impossible to extricate ourselves without lasting injury to our national character and institutions?

TARIFF REFORM AT ONCE.

The Dingley Tariff is excessive in many of its rates, and, as to them at least, unjustly and oppressively burdens the people. It secures to domestic manufacturers, singly or in combination, the privilege of exacting exorbitant prices at home and prices far above the level of sales made regularly by them abroad with profit, thus giving a bounty to foreigners at the expense of our own people. Its unjust taxation burdens the people generally, forcing them to pay excessive prices for food, fuel, clothing and other necessities of life. It levies duties on many articles not normally imported in any considerable amount, which are made extensively at home, for which the most extreme protectionist would hardly justify protective taxes, and which in large amounts are exported. Such duties have been and will continue to be a constant incentive to the formation of large industrial combinations, which, secure from foreign competition, are enabled to stifle domestic competition and practically to monopolize the home market.

It contains many duties imposed for the express purpose only, as was openly avowed, of furnishing a basis for reduction by means of reciprocal trade treaties which the Republican administration, implicitly at least promised to negotiate. Having, on this promise secured the increased duties, the Republican party leaders, spurred on by protected interests, defeated the treaty negotiated by the Executive, and now these same interests cling to the benefit of these duties which the people never intended they should have, and to which they have no moral right.

HOPE AID FROM SENATE.

The two leading parties have always differed as to the principle of customs taxation. Our party has always advanced the theory that the object is the raising of revenue for support of the government whatever other results may incidentally flow therefrom. The Republican party, on the other hand, contends that customs duties should be levied primarily for protection, so-called, with revenue as the subordinate purpose, thus using the power of taxation to build up the business and property of the few at the expense of the many.

This difference of principle still subsists, but our party appreciates that the long-continued policy of the country, as manifested in its statutes, makes it necessary that tariff reform should be prudently and sagaciously undertaken, on scientific principles, to the end that there should not be an immediate revolution in existing conditions.

In the words of our platform we demand "a revision and a gradual reduction of the tariff by the friends of the masses, and for the common weal, and not by the friends of its abuses, its extortions and discriminations."

It is true that the Republicans, who do not admit in their platform that the Dingley Tariff needs the slightest alteration, are likely to retain a majority of the Federal Senate throughout the next Presidential term, and could, therefore, if they chose, block every attempt at legislative relief. But it should be remembered that the Republican party includes many revisionists, and I believe it will shrink from defying the popular will expressed unmistakably and peremptorily at the ballot box.

The people demand reform of existing conditions. Since the last Democratic administration the cost of living has grievously increased. Those having fixed incomes have suffered keenly; those living on wages, if there has been any increase, know that such increase has not kept pace with the advance in the cost of living, including rent and the necessities of life. Many to-day are out of work, unable to secure any wages at all. To alleviate these conditions, in so far as it is our power, should be our earnest endeavor.

COMMON LAW AND TRUSTS.

Whether there is any common law which can be applied and enforced by the Federal courts, cannot be determined by the President, or by a candidate for the Presidency.

The determination of this question was left by the people in framing the Constitution, to the Judiciary and not to the Executive. The Supreme Court of the United States has recently considered this question, and, in the case of the Western Union Telegraph Co. vs. The Call Publishing Co., to be found in the one hundred and eighty-first volume of the United States Supreme Court reports, at page 92, it decided that common law principles could be applied by United States courts in cases involving Interstate Commerce, in the absence of United States statutes specifically covering the case. Such is the law of the land.

GREATER MARKETS NOW NEEDED.

In my address to the Notification Committee I said that tariff reform "is demanded by the best interests of both manufacturer and consumer." With equal truth it can be said that the benefits of reciprocal trade treaties would enure to both. That the consumer would be helped is unquestionable. That the manufacturer would receive great benefit by extending his markets abroad hardly needs demonstration. His productive capacity has outgrown the home market. The very term "Home Market" has changed in its significance. Once, from the manufacturer's point of view, it meant expansion; to-day the marvelous growth of our manufacturing industries has far exceeded the consumptive capacity of our domestic markets, and the term "Home Market" implies contraction, rather than expansion. If we would run our mills to their full capacity, thus giving steady employment to our workmen and securing to them and to the manufacturer the profits accruing from increased production, other markets must be found. Furthermore, when our manufacturers are dependent on raw materials in whole or part imported, it is vital to the extension of their markets abroad that they secure their materials on the most favorable terms.

The persistent refusal of the Republican majority in the Federal Senate to ratify the reciprocity treaties negotiated in pursuance of the policy advocated alike by Mr. Blaine and Mr. McKinley, and expressly sanctioned in the fourth section of the Dingley act, is a discouraging exhibition of bad faith. As already mentioned by me, the exorbitant duty imposed on many an imported article by the Dingley Tariff was avowedly intended by its author not to be permanent, but to serve temporarily as a *maximum*, from which the Federal Government was empowered to offer a reduction, in return for an equivalent concession on the part of a foreign country. President McKinley undertook honestly to carry out the purpose of this section of the act. A number of reciprocity agreements were negotiated within the prescribed limit of two years, which, if ratified, would have had the two-fold result of cheapening many imported products for American consumers, and of opening and enlarging foreign markets to American producers. Not one of those agreements has met with the approval of the Republican masters of the Senate. Indeed, they did not even permit their consideration. In view of the attitude of the present Executive, no new agreement under the general Treaty power need be expected from him. Nor does the Republican platform contain a favorable reference to one of the suspended treaties. This section of the Dingley act stands forth as a monument of legislative cozenage and political bad faith.

NO TYRANNY OVER OTHER PEOPLES.

If independence, such as the Cubans enjoy, cannot be prudently granted to the Philippines at this time the promise that it shall come the moment they are capable of receiving it will tend to stimulate rather than hinder their development. And this should be done not only in justice to the Filipinos, but to preserve our own rights; for a free people cannot withhold freedom from another people and themselves remain free. The toleration of tyranny over others will soon breed contempt for freedom and self-government, and weaken our power of resistance to insidious usurpation of our constitutional rights.

NATIONAL GOOD FAITH VIOLATED.

An Isthmian canal has long been the hope of our statesmen, and the avowed aim of the two great parties, as their platforms in the past show. The Panama route having been selected, the

building of the canal should be pressed to completion with all reasonable expedition.

The methods by which the Executive acquired the Panama Canal route and rights are a source of regret to many. To them, the statement that thereby a great public work was assured to the profit of our people is not a sufficient answer to the charge of violation of National good faith. They appreciate that the principles and healthy convictions which in their working out have made us free and great, stand firmly against the argument or suggestion that we shall be blind to the nature of the means employed to promote our welfare. They hold that adherence to principle, whether it works for our good or ill, will have a more beneficial influence on our future destiny than all our material upbuilding, and that we should ever remember that the idea of doing a wrong to a smaller, weaker nation that we, or even all mankind, may have a resultant good is repugnant to the principles upon which our government was founded.

INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Recent disclosures, coupled with the rapid augmentation of governmental expenditures, show a need of an investigation of every department of the government. The Democrats in Congress demanded it. The Republican majority refused the demand. The people can determine by their vote in November whether they wish an honest and thorough investigation. A Democratic Congress and Executive will assure it.

ARMY AND NAVY.

We are justly proud of the officers and men of our Army and Navy. Both, however, have suffered from the persistent injection of personal and political influence. Promotions and appointments have been frequently based in favoritism instead of merit. Trials and court-martials have been set aside under circumstances indicating political interference. These and other abuses should be corrected.

USURPATION IN PENSION ORDER.

The war closed nearly forty years ago. In the meantime many of our soldiers and sailors long survived the age of sixty-two, and passed away without receiving any pension. Skillful pension attorneys hunting through the statute failed to find there a provision giving a pension to all who had reached sixty-two. Many prominent veterans urged the justice of congressional action giving a service pension to all veterans. Bills to that effect were introduced in Congress. And not until March of this year did any one ever claim to have made the discovery that the President had power to treat the statute as if it read that when a claimant had passed the age of sixty-two years he is necessarily disabled one-half in ability to perform manual labor and therefore entitled to a pension.

The President of the Civil Service Commission, General John C. Black, formerly Commissioner of Pensions and Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, indicated his view of the order when in a recent address he thanked the President for what he had done, and advised his hearers to use their influence that a LAW might be passed to the same effect. Full confidence after all seems not to have been placed on the defense of justification, for it is pleaded in mitigation that a former Democratic President did something looking in that direction. Even if that were so, which is not admitted, the present duty would be none the less plain and imperative. Our people must never tolerate the citation of one act of usurpation of power as an excuse for another. The first may possibly be due to mistake; the second, being based on the first, cannot be. In explanation, however, it should be said that the order relied on simply provided that the age of seventy-five years should be regarded as evidence of inability to perform manual labor. Few men are able to perform manual labor at that age, but nearly all men are at sixty-two. The first order is based on a fact that experience teaches, the other is based on the assertion of that which is not true as a general rule.

"All
Are not
Thieves
That
Dogs
Bark
At."

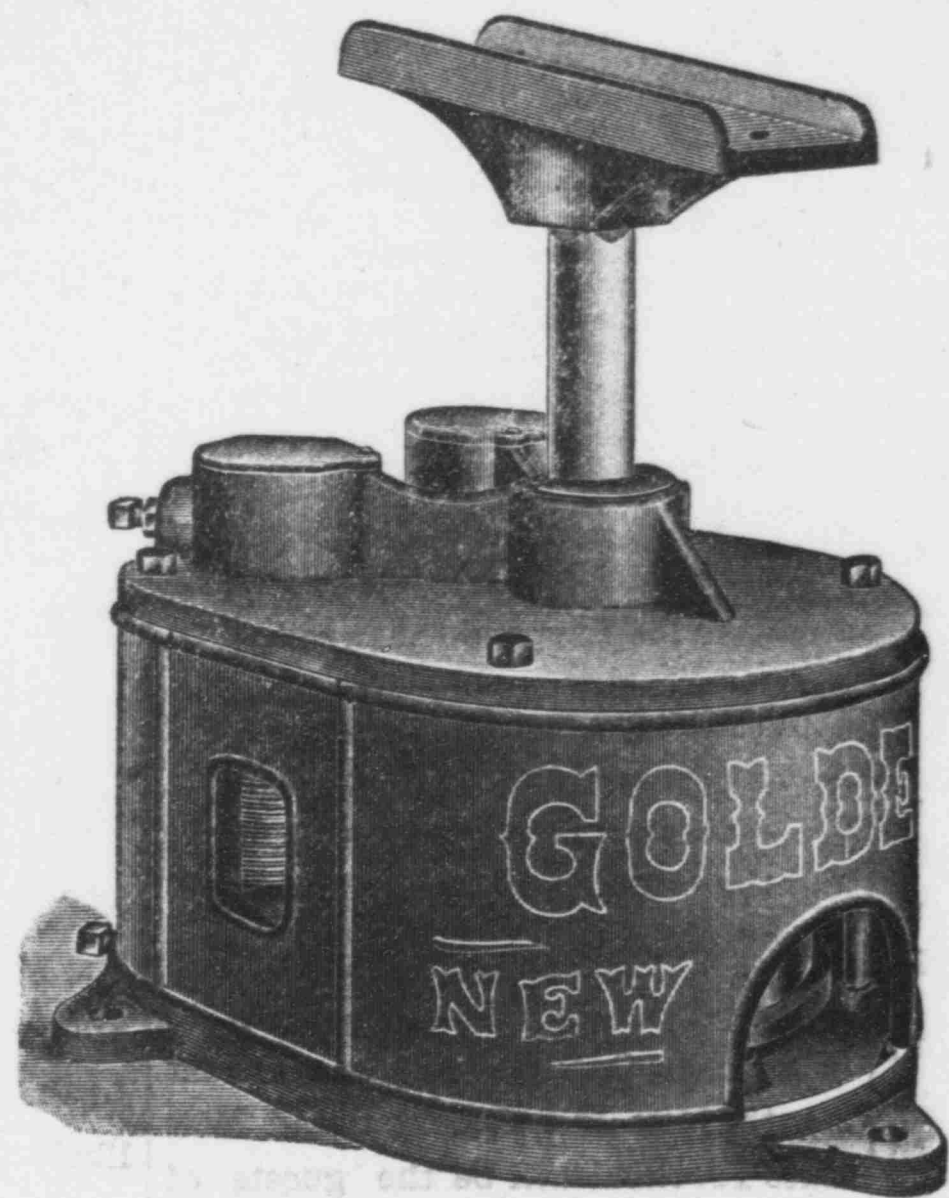


Appearances are not always to be relied on; neither are all kinds of advertising Electrical clock and similar catch-penny devices are apt to entrap the unwary. They are better than no advertising, but the same money spent in the columns of a local newspaper would yield a hundred fold better returns.

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Successors to Hubbard & Macduff.

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TO CONCENTRATE
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BOSTON STORE

Editor Louis J. Brumby, of the Florida Farmer and Truckee, published at Ocala, is the guest at the Tampa Bay for a few days and made the Tribune office a pleasant call last night. Col. Brumby says that Hon. H. W. Long, Marion county's commissioner to the South Florida fair, is working energetically for a fine exhibit from his county which will be a leader at the fair.—Tampa Tribune.